

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

OFA-01 DLOS-04 IO-10 EB-07 CG-00 DOTE-00 AGR-05

(ISO) W

----- 045031

R 180805Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3453

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13276

CINCPA FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KN

SUBJECT: JAPAN-NORTH KOREA: CAPTAIN OF SHOSEI MARU SILENT

REF: TOKYO 12882

1. ORTHEAST ASIAN DIVDIR ENDO TOLD US SEPTEMBER 17 THAT CAPTAIN OF SHOSEI MARU HAS REFUSED SO FAR TO MAKE STATEMENT TO MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY DESCRIBING CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING SEIZURE OF HIS SHIP. ENDO SPECULATED THAT CAPTAIN UNWILLING TO PROVIDE ANY TESTIMONY UNTIL TWO WOUNDED CREWMEN RETURNED FROM PYONGYANG. PRESUMABLY, CAPTAIN'S TESTIMONY WOULD CONTRADICT HIS ADMISSION OF GUILT MADE WHILE IN HANDS OF NORTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES AND MIGHT JEOPARDIZE STATUS OF WOUNDED CREWMAN.

2. COMMENT: WOUNDED MEN ARE HOSTAGES IN EFFECT. THEIR PRESENCE IN PYONGYANG ENABLES NORTH KOREANS TO CONTROL PACE FOLLOWUP INVESTIGATION AND POSSIBLE GOJ ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH SHOSEI MARU INCIDENT BECAUSE CONFIDENTIAL

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GOJ CANNOT MOVE UNTIL THE CAPTAIN SPEAKS. WE SUSPECT THAT THE RECOVERY OF THE WOUNDED CREWMAN WILL BE GRADUAL AND THAT GOJ WILL KEEP ANY IMPATIENCE UNDER TIGHT CONTROL. HODGSON

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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